

This legislation will make it easier for law enforcement authorities to coordinate and work together to make sure guns do not end up in the hands of criminals, the mentally ill, and non-citizens.

This bill will also create a more uniform system of background checks to help prevent the type of tragedy that occurred at Virginia Tech, where a documented mentally disturbed young man was able to buy guns and create devastation and destruction on a college campus.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this bill is an important first step in strengthening our Nation's gun laws and I support this legislation enthusiastically and without reservation.

I am also offering my own legislation, H.R. 2666, Blair's Bill, which will create a national gun registry and licensing procedure so we can finally begin to get a grip on the deadly issue of gun violence that has devastated so many of our communities across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this and other sensible gun control laws.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. WARREN F.  
WITZIG

**HON. JOHN E. PETERSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Warren F. Witzig, of State College, PA, who died on June 13, 2007. Dr. Witzig, who was born on March 26, 1921, was one of the pioneers of nuclear power. Indeed, the Penn State Nuclear Engineering Society recently honored him as a "visionary and innovator in the establishment of the United States nuclear power industry." The Penn State community, his friends and colleagues, and most importantly, his family, will miss him.

Dr. Witzig received a B.S. in electrical engineering in 1942, from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in Troy, NY; an M.S. in electrical engineering in 1944, from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Pittsburgh. From 1942 to 1960, Dr. Witzig was employed at the Westinghouse Research Laboratories and Bettis Plant in Pittsburgh, PA.

During World War II, he worked on the Manhattan District program on high vacuum systems, heat transfer, mass spectroscopy, and ionic centrifuge. He served as the first experimenter in the Materials Testing Reaction and later as engineering manager of in-pile tests for the naval reaction program in Hanford, Chalk River, and the MTR-ETR complex.

Dr. Witzig took the reactor of USS *Nautilus*, the world's first nuclear-powered ship, critical for the first time in 1954 while serving as senior engineer. He was integral in the development of nuclear submarines used by the U.S. Navy, developing engineering that was vital to the *Skipjack* and *George Washington* series of nuclear submarines, which have been the backbone of the U.S. nuclear navy.

After leaving government service, he traveled worldwide in his consulting practice, NUS Corp., which grew into one of the country's largest independent groups of nuclear consultants. He became professor and department head of Nuclear Engineering at the Pennsyl-

vania State University in 1967. While at Penn State, Dr. Witzig was responsible for one of the earliest student programs in nuclear engineering in the United States. He established the undergraduate and associate degree programs and initiated the continuing education Program on Radiation, Nuclear Safety and Environmental Effects for Public Education. Dr. Witzig conducted research in areas of reactor design and safety, fuel cycle, nuclear safeguards, rad-waste disposal, emergency planning and radiation monitoring.

Retiring from the university in 1986, he served on multiple public and private nuclear safety and oversight boards. Dr. Witzig chaired the Westinghouse GoCo Sites Nuclear Safety and Environmental Institute board of directors from 1988 to 1993. In 1979, Governor Richard Thornburgh called him into the service of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during the emergency shutdown of Three Mile Island II.

In June 1992, Witzig presented the paper, "The Value of a Nuclear Safety and Environmental Committee," at the Ukraine Academy of Science at Chelyabinski State University. He toured the site of the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Dr. Witzig had been a life-long advocate of nuclear energy as a clean, safe, and efficient source of energy and also for the training, accreditation, and oversight of nuclear operators.

Among Dr. Witzig's honors are Fellow, American Nuclear Society; Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Sigma Xi, Sigma Pi Sigma, and Eta Kappa Nu honor societies; Special Citation for an Engineering educator in Excellence in Engineering Education, EEL Power Engineering; Who's Who in Engineering and America; and Penn State's Outstanding Service Award for retirees.

He was also a leader in his community, serving Ferguson Township as a financial auditor and working 6 years on the Planning Commission, establishing the township's first comprehensive zoning ordinance. A member of the State College Presbyterian Church, Dr. Witzig was an ordained elder of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. He served on the Christian Education committee, and was a Sunday School teacher.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest sympathy to Dr. Witzig's family, especially his beloved wife Bernadette, his children Eric, Leah, Marc, and Lisa, his grandchildren Heather, Sean, Christie, Monica, Mallory, and Alicia, and his great grandchildren Madeline, Ava, and Miles. Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. Witzig for his contributions to nuclear engineering. His leadership and ingenuity have saved lives, developed new technology, and advanced our knowledge of nuclear science.

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TRIBUTE TO GARY GOSS

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Goss, owner of Structural Fiberglass in Bedford, PA, who has been named the 2007 Citizen of the Year by the Bedford Rotary Club. The Club annually recognizes a local individual who epitomizes the

Rotary Motto of "Service Above Self."

Gary has been a dedicated leader in the Bedford community, giving his time to various community organizations. He has served as president of the Bedford Rotary Club and the Bedford County Development Association and currently chairs the local Adopt-a-Highway organization, as well as the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Project. Gary has served as an assistant Scout Master for the Boy Scouts of America for 11 years, in addition to contributing to many other community organizations, nonprofits and his church. The Rotary International has previously recognized Gary as a Paul Harris Fellow.

While I could go on listing the countless organizations to which Gary has given his time and energy, it is reasonable to say that his contributions to the Bedford community are endless. There is no doubt that Gary has touched the lives of thousands, surely impacting each one of them in a tremendous and beneficial way. Gary serves as a role model for many, and it is my hope that those that have the opportunity to meet and work with Gary will take away some of his enthusiasm for bettering the community and the lives of those around him.

Gary's wife Peggy, to whom he has been married for 30 years, and his two children, Michael and Nicole, are certainly proud and honored by his remarkable work and devotion to improving the lives of others. The thousands of people who know Gary Goss—and who have benefited from his hard work and dedication—would join me in thanking Gary for his contributions to the Bedford community, as well as for serving as a great inspiration, demonstrating that selflessness and hard work go far in enhancing not only their own lives, but the lives of many.

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HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
SUSAN TIEGER

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Ms. Susan Tieger, of Arlington, Virginia. After thirty-five years of teaching in Arlington County Public Schools, Ms. Tieger will be retiring, leaving behind a legacy of dedication, care and hard work.

Ms. Tieger graduated with honors from Queens College in 1971. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education with the distinction of Cum Laude, she was awarded a fellowship in Special Education by the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and was awarded her Master of Education degree in June, 1972.

Ms. Tieger has taught in the Arlington County Public School system from September 1972 until the present. From 1972–1994, she taught multi-categorical self-contained classes consisting of students with learning disabilities, emotional disturbances and mental retardation at Francis Scott Key Elementary School. She has been the Special Education lead teacher at Barcroft Elementary School since 1994.

In June 2006, she earned the Educational Testing Service Recognition of Excellence for

her outstanding performance in the Praxis II test in which she achieved one of the highest possible scores.

During her thirty-five years with Arlington schools, Ms. Tieger has touched and improved the lives of hundreds of children and their parents. She was able to assist and teach children with a variety of learning disabilities, including those with mental retardation and emotional problems. In addition, Ms. Tieger was able to help countless children to read, write, socialize, and most important, to achieve their highest potential.

Susan Tieger is the epitome of a dedicated, caring and hard-working public school teacher. The fact that Arlington County has one of the best school systems in the country is directly attributable to the talents, hard work and dedication of teachers like Ms. Tieger.

I commend Ms. Tieger on her dedicated career in education, and wish her and her family health and happiness in her well-earned, much deserved retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HER- ITAGE MONTH

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Caribbean American Heritage Month. The imprint of Caribbean-Americans on the foundation of the United States is indispensable. This June, we Americans have the opportunity to celebrate the history, accomplishments, culture and global influence of people of Caribbean descent past and present.

Caribbean-Americans have significantly contributed to the ethnic diversity that strengthens and enhances our stature in the international community. From the platform of St. Mark's Church in New York City to the halls of Congress, Caribbean-Americans such as Marcus Garvey and Congresswoman BARBARA LEE have effected the civil rights and federal legislation that serve as building blocks in American history.

Even in times of war, Caribbean-Americans support our efforts at home and abroad by serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Today, thousands of Caribbean-Americans are fighting to achieve stability in Iraq.

In a wide variety of fields, people of Caribbean descent have transformed the Nation we live in today. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H. Con. Res. 148, recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

#### TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN F. KELLY

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize Brigadier General John F. Kelly, United States Marine Corps. From August 2004 to June 2007, Brig-

adier General Kelly admirably served as the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

During his time in this position, Brigadier General Kelly created numerous successes for the Marine Corps mission. His keen knowledge and experience in Congressional affairs, combined with an increased emphasis on Congressional relationships, propelled the Commandant's strategy and vision. His leadership has enabled the Marine Corps to make tremendous progress during a period of sustained high operational tempo and unprecedented interest in Marine Corps activities.

Brigadier General Kelly is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, the School for Advanced Warfare, and the National War College. He has served in numerous command and staff positions over his 31 years as an officer in the Marine Corps and is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I wish Brigadier General Kelly and his family the best as he continues his distinguished service to our Nation in his next assignment as the Deputy Commanding General of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. I am confident he will continue to exemplify the best that the Marine Corps has to offer and will superbly command our troops in the field.

#### NDEA

#### HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, under the NDEA, when the Class I milk price in the Boston market falls below the established minimum price, processors would pay an over-order premium—the difference between the minimum price set by the applicable Regional Dairy Board and the Boston Class I price—into a national fund. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture would then distribute the monies in the fund back to the Boards according to a formula whereby each region would get back the greater of what they pay into the fund or the amount of the over-order payments a region would have generated if it had a Class I utilization rate of 50 percent. In the event of a shortfall, the Secretary would supplement the money in the fund from savings from the MILC program to ensure that the Regional Dairy Boards, and subsequently the dairy farmers themselves, would receive the full payments.

The Regional Dairy Boards would be comprised of three members from each participating state in a particular region. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture would make the nominations to the Boards after receiving nominees put forward by governors or elected state agricultural commissioner after consultation with the dairy industry. Each state delegation to the Regional Dairy Boards would consist of three representatives, with at least one producer and one consumer.

In addition to the responsibility to establish minimum prices and distribute payments to dairy farmers, the Regional Dairy Boards would have the authority to conduct supply management programs when necessary, including the development of incentive-based programs. Moreover, in order to prevent over-production, regions in which the growth in milk

production is higher than the national average would be required to reimburse the U.S. Secretary of Treasury for the cost of government dairy surplus purchases up to the amount that the region is receiving under the NDEA.

It is important to note that the NDEA would not establish national pooling. Rather, it would create an equalization fund whereby processor paid funds would go to a central account at the U.S. Department of Agriculture; government funds would be added to that fund and then payments would be made to the various regions according to a formula, which would permit regions with low Class I utilization to receive the same benefit as those regions with higher utilization.

Also of significance, the NDEA would be entirely optional for the states and individual farmers. Thus, those states that do not wish to participate in the NDEA program could simply choose to continue to participate in the MILC program, which the NDEA would extend to 2012, and individual farmers in states participating in the new NDEA program could instead opt to merely continue receiving payments under their current MILC contract rather than under the NDEA. However, those individuals would not be eligible to extend their MILC contract beyond September 2008 and would lose all future eligibility to participate in the NDEA program.

Madam Speaker, the NDEA would create a market-orientated, counter-cyclical program to help all of our Nation's dairy farmers while simultaneously saving taxpayers money. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me to enact this important legislation.

#### HONORING BISHOP P.A. BROOKS

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, Honoring Bishop Aquilla Brooks has served his community as a Local pastor for 50 years and as a jurisdictional bishop for more than 30 years; and

Whereas, Bishop Brooks, is a man of keen spiritual insight, integrity and has dedicated his life to serving the spiritual needs of the community; and

Whereas, Bishop P.A. Brooks, is a widely respected church and community leader. Brooks has received numerous awards for his outstanding service to the community including the: FBI Outstanding Community Service Award. In 1979 the Michigan Chronicle recognized him as one of Detroit's outstanding men of the year; and

Whereas, Bishop Brooks, is the third-longest serving Church of God in Christ Bishop in the history of the State of Michigan. During his tenure he has implemented programs and initiatives that have benefited laity and clergy alike. Due to his influence the Church of God in Christ launched their first credit union in the State of Michigan in Fall 2004; and

Whereas, Bishop Brooks is a man of God standing firmly on the past, Established in the present, and important to the future of The Church of God in Christ. Therefore be it now

*Resolved*, That Bishop P.A. Brooks be commended on the occasion of the Inaugural Salute Banquet recognizing his elevation to the